

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A portable card adapted to be used in a card processing system having a data processing station comprising:

a data storage device ~~having a generally rectangular shape~~ adapted to interact with a the data processing station when a the portable card and a the data processing station are moved relative to each other, said data storage device including

a substrate having a ~~predetermined~~ generally rectangular shape; and

at least one layer of high density, high coercivity magnetic material for storing magnetic signals, said magnetic material layer being disposed along an arcuate shaped track on said substrate; and ~~a path substantially parallel to at least one side of said generally rectangular shape~~

a relatively hard, abradable protective coating formed on said magnetic material layer and being selected to have a thickness between a maximum thickness which would materially attenuate magnetic signals passing between said magnetic material layer and a transducer and a minimum thickness enabling said protective coating to be abraded by usage in an ambient natural atmosphere operating environment for removing therefrom a known quantity of the protective coating,

wherein protective coating has at least one layer which includes a magnetically permeable, magnetically saturable material.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The portable card of claim 1 wherein said ~~data storage device has a generally rectangular shape having~~ substrate includes one side which is longer than the other side and ~~wherein said stored magnetic signals are stored in a track~~ substantially parallel to one side of said rectangular shape.

5. (original) The portable card of claim 4 wherein said stored magnetic signals are stored in arcuate shaped track extending between two opposed sides of said rectangular shape.

6. (original) The portable card of claim 4 having two longer sides wherein said stored magnetic signals are stored in arcuate shaped track extending between said two longer sides of said rectangular shape.

7. (original) The portable card of claim 4 having two longer sides wherein said stored magnetic signals are stored in arcuate shaped track extending between said two shorter sides of said rectangular shape.

8. (original) The portable card of claim 4 having two longer sides wherein said stored magnetic signals are stored in circular shaped tracks located between said two longer sides of said rectangular shape.

9. (original) The portable card of claim 8 wherein said stored magnetic signals are stored in circular shaped tracks located centrally between said two longer sides of said rectangular shape.

10. (currently amended) A portable card adapted to be used in a card processing system having a data processing station comprising:

~~a data storage device having a generally rectangular shape and a pair of longer sides which are longer than a pair of shorter sides~~ adapted to interact with a the data processing station when a the portable card and a the data processing station are moved relative to each other, said data storage device including

a substrate having a generally rectangular shape and a pair of longer sides which are longer than a pair of shorter sides ~~predetermined shape; and~~

at least one layer of high density, high coercivity magnetic material for storing magnetic signals, said magnetic material layer being disposed along an arcuate shaped track on said substrate; and ~~a path substantially parallel to at least one side of said generally rectangular shape~~

a relatively hard, abradable protective coating formed on said magnetic material layer and being selected to have a thickness between a maximum thickness which would materially attenuate magnetic signals passing between said magnetic material layer and a transducer and a minimum thickness enabling said protective coating to be abraded by usage in an ambient natural atmosphere operating environment for removing therefrom a known quantity of the protective coating,

wherein protective coating has at least one layer which includes a magnetically permeable, magnetically saturable material.

11. (canceled)

12. (canceled)

13. (canceled)

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (original) The portable card of claim 10 wherein said stored magnetic signals are stored in at least one circular shaped track located between pair of longer sides.

17. (original) The portable card of claim 16 wherein said stored magnetic signals are stored in at least one circular shaped track located centrally between pair of longer sides of said rectangular shape.

18. (canceled)

19. (original) The portable card of claim 10 wherein said at least one magnetic material layer is a thin film layer of high density, high coercivity magnetic material having a predetermined magnetic field orientation for storing data.

20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) The portable card of claim ~~18~~ 10 wherein protective coating has at least two layers wherein one of said layers includes a magnetically permeable, magnetically saturable material and the other of said layers is a non-magnetic friction reducing layer formed on said one of said layers.

22. (currently amended) The portable card of claim ~~18~~ 10 wherein said protective has an outer surface that is cleanable.

23. (currently amended) The portable card of claim ~~18~~ 10 wherein said substrate has two surfaces and said protective coating is applied to at least one of said two surfaces.

24. (currently amended) The portable card of claim ~~18~~ 10 wherein said substrate has two surfaces and said protective coating is applied to at least one of said two surfaces and wherein said data storage device is located on the other of said two surfaces and said protective coating is applied to at least said data storage device.

25. (currently amended) The portable card of claim ~~18~~ 10 having an obverse side and a converse side and wherein said substrate has two surfaces and wherein said data storage device is located on one of said two surfaces and said protective coating is applied to each of said obverse side and converse side.

26. (currently amended) The portable card of claim ~~18~~ 10 wherein said protective coating has an outer surface and further comprises

a bonded lubricant layer formed on said outer surface and having a thickness which is less than the thickness of said protective coating.

27. (currently amended) The portable card of claim ~~18~~ 10 wherein said protective coating is adapted to interface with and be responsive to a data processing station when said substrate and data processing station are moved relative to each other to

position said substrate proximate said data processing station to enable data flow therebetween.

28. (original) The portable card of claim 10 wherein said substrate is moved relative to said data processing station.

29. (original) The portable card of claim 10 wherein said data processing station is moved relative to said substrate.

30. (original) The portable card of claim 10 wherein said data processing station and said substrate are moved relative to each other.

31. (canceled)

32. (canceled)

33. (canceled)

34. (canceled)

35. (canceled)

36. (canceled).

37. (canceled)

38. (original) The portable card of claim 10 wherein said thin film layer of magnetic material has an areal density of about 2 megabits per sq. in. to about 10 gigabits per sq. in.

39. (canceled)

40. (canceled)

41. (canceled)

42. (canceled)

43. (canceled)

44. (canceled).

45. (canceled)

46. (canceled)

47. (original) The portable card of claim 10 wherein said at least one thin film layer of high density, high coercivity magnetic material is a sputtered layer.

48. (original) The portable card of claim 10 wherein said at least one thin film layer of high density, high coercivity magnetic material is a plated layer.

49. (original) The portable card of claim 10 wherein said at least one thin film layer of high density, high coercivity magnetic material is an oxide layer.

50. (original) The portable card of claim 10 wherein said at least one thin film layer of high density, high coercivity magnetic material is a web coated layer.

51-80. (canceled)